

2 Maccabees 3



1611 King James Version

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Also read 2 Maccabees in the
1535 Coverdale, 1537
Matthew's, 1539 Taverner's,
1540 Great Bible, 1560
Geneva, 1568 Bishop's, and the
1382 Wycliffe (handwritten in Middle
English) Bible versions.

2 MACCABEES 3

3=1 Now when the
holy city was
inhabited with
all peace, and
the laws were
kept very well,

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because of the
godliness of
Onias the high
priest, and his
hatred of
wickedness,
3=2 It came to
pass that even
the kings
themselves did
honour the

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**place, and
magnify the
temple with
their best gifts;**

3=3 In **so much
that Seleucus of
Asia of his own
revenues bare
all the costs
belonging to the
service of the**

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sacrifices.

**3=4 But one
Simon of the
tribe of
Benjamin, who
was made
governor of the
temple, fell out
with the high
priest about
disorder in**

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the city.

3:5 And when he
could not
overcome
Onias, he
gat him to
Apollonius the
son of
Thraseas, who
then was
governor of

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**Celosyria and
Phenice,**

**3=6 And told him
that the treasury
in Jerusalem
was full of
infinite sums of
money, so that
the multitude of
their riches,
which did not**

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**pertain to the
account of the
sacrifices, was
innumerable,
and that it was
possible to
bring all into the
king's hand.**

**3:7 Now when
Apollonius
came to the**

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**king, and had
shewed him of
the money
whereof he was
told, the king
chose out
Heliodorus his
treasurer, and
sent him with a
commandment
to bring him the**

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foresaid money.

3=8 so forthwith
Heliodorus took
his journey;
under a colour
of visiting the
cities of
Celosyria and
Phenice, but
indeed to fulfil

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**the king's
purpose.**

**3:9 And when he
was come to
Jerusalem, and
had been
courteously
received of the
high priest of
the city, he told
him what**

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**intelligence was
given of the
money, and
declared
wherefore he
came, and
asked if these
things were so
indeed.**

**3-10 Then the
high priest told**

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**him that there
was such
money laid up
for the relief of
widows and
fatherless
children:**

**3=11 And that
some of it
belonged to
Hircanus son of**

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**Tobias, a man
of great dignity,
and not as that
wicked Simon
had
misinformed:
the sum
whereof in all
was four
hundred talents
of silver, and**

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**two hundred of
gold:**

3:12 And that it
was altogether
impossible that
such wrongs
should be done
unto them, that
had committed
it to the
holiness of the

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**place, and to
the majesty and
inviolable
sanctity of the
temple,
honoured over
all the world.**

**3:13 But
Heliodorus,
because of
the king's**

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**commandment
given him, said,
That in any wise
it must be
brought into the
king's treasury**

3=14 **So at the day
which he
appointed he
entered in to
order this**

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**matter:
wherefore there
was no small
agony
throughout the
whole city.**

3: 15 But the
priests,
prostrating
themselves
before the altar

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**in their priests'
vestments,
called unto
heaven upon
him that made a
law concerning
things given to
he kept, that
they should
safely be
preserved for**

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**such as had
committed them
to be kept.**

**3=16 Then whoso
had looked the
high priest in
the face, it
would have
wounded his
heart: for his**

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**countenance
and the
changing of his
colour declared
the inward
agony of
his mind.**

**3: 17 For the man
was so
compassed with
fear and horror**

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of the body, that
it was manifest
to them that
looked upon
him, what
sorrow he
had now
in his heart.

3: 18 Others ran
flocking out of
their houses to

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**the general
supplication,
because the
place was like
to come into
contempt.**

**3=19 And the
women, girt
with sackcloth
under their
breasts,**

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**abounded in the
streets, and the
virgins that
were kept in
ran, some to the
gates, and some
to the walls, and
others looked
out of the
windows.**

³=20 And all,

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holding their
hands toward
heaven, made
supplication.

3:21 Then it
would have
pitied a man to
see the falling
down of the
multitude of all
sorts, and the

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**fear of the high
priest being in
such an agony.**

**3:22 They then
called upon the
Almighty Lord
to keep the
things
committed of
trust safe and
sure for those**

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that had
committed
them.

3:23 Nevertheless
Heliodorus
executed that
which was
decreed.

3:24 Now as he
was there
present himself

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**with his guard
about the
treasury, the
Lord of spirits,
and the Prince
of all power,
caused a great
apparition, so
that all that
presumed to
come in with**

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him were
astonished at
the power of
God, and
fainted, and
were sore
afraid.

3:25 For there
appeared unto
them an horse
with a terrible

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**rider upon him,
and adorned
with a very fair
covering, and
he ran fiercely,
and smote at
Heliodorus with
his forefeet, and
it seemed that
he that sat upon
the horse had**

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**complete
harness of gold.**

**3:26 Moreover
two other young
men appeared
before him,
notable in
strength,
excellent in
beauty, and
comely in**

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**apparel, who
stood by him on
either side; and
scourged him
continually, and
gave him many
sore stripes.**

**3:27 And
Heliodorus fell
suddenly unto
the ground, and**

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**was compassed
with great
darkness: but
they that were
with him took
him up, and put
him into a litter.**

3:28 Thus him,
that lately came
with a great
train and with

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**all his guard
into the said
treasury, they
carried out,
being unable to
help himself
with his
weapons: and
manifestly they
acknowledged
the power of**

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God.

3:29 For he by the
hand of God
was cast down,
and lay
speechless
without all hope
of life.

3:30 But they
praised the
Lord, that had

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**miraculously
honoured his
own place: for
the temple;
which a little
afore was full of
fear and trouble,
when the
Almighty Lord
appeared, was
filled with joy**

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and gladness.

3:31 Then
straightways
certain of
Heliodorus'
friends prayed
Onias, that he
would call upon
the most High
to grant him his
life, who lay

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**ready to give up
the ghost.**

3:32 So the high
priest,
suspecting lest
the king should
misconceive
that some
treachery had
been done to
Heliodorus by

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**the Jews,
offered a
sacrifice for the
health of the
man.**

3:33 Now as the
high priest was
making an
atonement, the
same young
men in the same

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**clothing
appeared and
stood beside
Heliodorus,
saying, Give
Onias the high
priest great
thanks,
insomuch as for
his sake the
Lord hath**

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granted thee
life:

3:34 And seeing
that thou hast
been scourged
from heaven,
declare unto all
men the mighty
power of God.
And when they
had spoken

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**these words,
they appeared
no more.**

3:35 So

**Heliodorus,
after he had
offered sacrifice
unto the Lord,
and made great
vows unto him
that had saved**

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**his life, and
saluted Onias,
returned with
his host to the
king.**

**3:36 Then
testified he to
all men the
works of the
great God,
which he had**

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seen with his
eyes.

3:37 And when
the king
Heliodorus, who
might be a fit
man to be sent
yet once again
to Jerusalem,
he said,
3:38 If thou

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**hast any enemy
or traitor, send
him thither, and
thou shalt
receive him well
scourged, if he
escape with his
life: for in that
place, no doubt;
there is an**

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**especial power
of God.**

3:39 For he that
dwelleth in
heaven hath his
eye on that
place, and
defendeth it;
and he beateth
and destroyeth

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**them that come
to hurt it.**

**3=40 And the
things
concerning
Heliodorus,
and the keeping
of the treasury,
fell out on this
sort.**

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